



## **Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan**

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Facility standards define the number of facilities recommended to serve each particular type of recreation. They are expressed as the number of facilities per population size. The standards shown are based on comparisons with the national standard, other similar cities in Texas, the 1997 Parks Master Plan, as well as the actual number of facilities in Hurst and the amount of use each facility receives.

### **6.8 Park Facility Standards and Needs**

The Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan includes school outdoor recreation facilities along with City facilities as a true reflection of the total facilities provided to the citizens of Hurst. The attached report describes the collaborative use of school and city facilities. (It should be noted that only HEB Independent School District and Tarrant County College recreational facilities within the City of Hurst are counted.)

### ***School Facilities Included***

#### **Description of the collaborative use of school and City facilities in the City of Hurst**

- Hurst is a member of the Hurst-Euless-Bedford (HEB) Recreation Federation. The Federation is composed of the Cities of Hurst, Euless, Bedford, and the HEB Independent School District (HEBISD). The Federation is charged with overseeing and approving usage by outside organizations of the facilities owned by the three cities and the school district. These facilities are available to the general public when not in use by a member organization.
- Hurst is a member of the Mid-Cities Youth Activities Council (MCYAC). MCYAC is composed of the four members of the HEB Recreation Federation, plus one representative from each organization co-sponsored by one or more of the three cities. Currently, there are ten (10) co-sponsored associations that are members of MCYAC. MCYAC is charged with allocating practice facilities to these ten organizations on a seasonal basis. Five (5) of these ten organizations have annual facilities utilization agreements with Hurst.
- Hurst and the HEBISD practice “facility sharing” for various programs and events on an as-needed basis. Examples: Hurst uses the L.D. Bell High School auditorium for its Spring Dance Recital and, in reciprocation for this usage, allows the use of the Hurst Athletic Complex for the L.D. Bell Girls Fastpitch Softball Summer Camp. The Hurst Tennis Center and L.D. Bell High School trade the use of tennis courts as “over-flow” sites, when needed, for large tennis tournaments. When not in use for school-sponsored activities, the L.D. Bell High School tennis courts are available to the general public.



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The Tarrant County College-Northeast Campus (TCC-NE) indoor facilities, including fitness rooms, racquetball courts, gymnasium and natatorium, are available to the general public via the purchase of a "Recreation and Fitness Club Pass" (\$63 per semester). Pass holders can access these facilities during designated hours (primarily when there are no TCC classes using them).

The TCC-NE outdoor facilities, including tennis courts, sand volleyball court, one-mile walking path, and horseshoe courts, are available to the general public whenever there are no classes or other TCC activities underway.

The following is a written description of the 2005 target standards for recreation facilities. The 2005 target standards for park acreage are the national and regional averages followed by consultant interpretation.

### ***Facilities Target Standard***

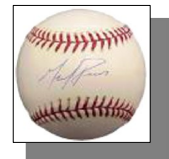
A specific review of each major type of outdoors facility, key needs and key issues associated with each type of facility follows. Facility needs are based both on ratios related to existing population, as well as the amount of demand for each type of facility based on user information where available.

### **COMPETITIVE FACILITIES**

### ***Major Athletic Facilities***

#### ***Baseball (Coach-Pitch, T-Ball, Boys Baseball)***

- Current Number of Competition Fields: 7 fields (city: 6 / schools: 1)
- **Target Standard: 1 field per 5,000 population**  
The 2005 standard is half the 1997 standard; however, equal to the NRPA standard and results in a zero deficit.
- Year 2005 Need for additional fields - 0
- **Key Issues** – Facilities appear to be adequate in number. Based on user information there is no immediate need for additional competition baseball fields. Respondents to the attitude survey rated the need for new baseball fields as unimportant.
- **Comments** -  
Since 1997, the popularity of baseball appears to have become stable compared to other recreational activities.  
Note that this standard only refers to competition facilities and not practice fields, which seem to be well provided.





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### ***Softball (Adult Slow-pitch, Girls Fast Pitch)***

- Current Number of Competition Fields: 9 fields (city: 8 / schools: 1)
- **Target Standard: 1 field per 5,000 population**  
The 2005 standard is half the 1997 standard, but equal to the NRPA standard and nonetheless results in a surplus of 2 fields.
- Year 2005 Need for additional fields - 0
- **Key Issues** – There is a surplus of two competition softball fields. Respondents to the attitude survey rated the need for new softball fields as unimportant.
- **Comments** -  
Since 1997, the popularity of softball appears to have become stable compared to other recreational activities. Note that this standard only refers to competition facilities and not practice fields, which seem to be well provided.



### ***Soccer (Youth)***

- Current Number of Competition Fields: 13 fields (city: 13 / schools: 0)
- **Target Standard: 1 field per 3,000 population**  
The 2005 standard is set at 116% of the 1997 standard and at 300% of the NRPA standard, and results in a surplus of 1 field.
- Current 2005 Need for additional fields - 0
- **Key Issues** – There is a surplus of one competition soccer field. Additional soccer facilities do not appear as a need in the attitude survey.
- **Comments** - The need for soccer facilities was determined to be relatively high in 1997, and the perception is that it has since increased even more.



### ***Football***

- Current Number of Fields: 2 fields (city: 0 / schools: 2)
- **Target Standard: 1 field per 20,000 population**  
The 2005 standard is set at the same as the NRPA standard with no deficit in the current provision of football competitive facilities. No standard was set in 1997.
- Current 2005 Need for additional fields - 0
- **Key Issues** – There is no need for additional competition football fields. In fact, additional football facilities do not appear as a need in the attitude survey.
- **Comments** - Historically the popularity of football has been high (1 field per 20,000 population) in this area compared to other recreational facilities and appears to be the same today. Adequate facilities for this activity are provided by the school district and are available for use by the general public as well.





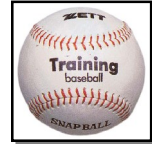
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### PRACTICE FACILITIES

#### *Baseball/Softball*

- Current Number of Backstops: 31 backstops (city: 4 / schools: 27)
- **Target Standard: 1 backstop per 5,000 population**  
No NRPA standard exists for this practice facility. The 2005 standard is set at 120% of the 1997 standard but even so, results in a surplus of 24 backstops.
- Current 2005 Need for additional fields/backstops - 0
- **Key Issues** - The surplus is mainly due to the number of fields provided at the schools.
- **Comments** - Hurst's membership in the HEB Recreation Federation, results in the cooperative use of Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School District facilities for Hurst's co-sponsored youth sports associations.



#### *Multipurpose Practice fields (Soccer and Football)*

- Current Number of Fields: 26 fields (city: 6 / schools: 20)
- **Target Standard: 1 field per 3,000 population**  
No NRPA standard exists for Multipurpose Practice fields. The 2005 standard is set at 133% of the 1997 standard and results in a surplus of 14 practice fields.
- Current 2005 Need for additional practice fields - 0
- **Key Issues** - The surplus is due to the number of practice fields provided at the schools. Respondents to the attitude survey rated the need for new soccer and football fields as unimportant.
- **Comments** - Hurst's membership in the HEB Recreation Federation, results in the cooperative use of Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School District facilities for Hurst's co-sponsored youth sports associations. The benefit of a multipurpose practice field is its flexibility in use according to need at a specific time as well as popularity of either football or soccer. It should be noted that many of the school practice fields are readily available to the adult community in Hurst when not in use by organizations, but may not be appropriate for use by adults due to the size of the fields.

### OTHER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

#### *Basketball Goals (Outdoor)*

- Current Number of Goals: 39 goals (city: 11 / schools: 28)
- **Target Standard: 1 basketball goal per 1,000 population**  
The 2005 standard is set at 250% of the 1997 and NRPA standard. According to the 2005 standards the City as a whole has a deficit of surplus of two basketball courts.
- Current 2005 Need for additional basketball goals - 0





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- **Key Issues** - Respondents to the attitude survey rated basketball courts as number 11 in importance out of a list 30; with the highest need expressed by respondents in areas 1, 2 and 4. Respondents in areas 2 and 4 also mention it as a need in an open-ended question.
- **Comments** – All outdoor basketball courts at school facilities are accessible by the public but may not be appropriate for use by adults due to the size of the courts.

### *Sand Volleyball (Outdoor)*

- Current Number of Courts: 5 courts (city: 4 / school: 1)
- **Target Standard: 1 court per 5,000 population**  
The 2005 standard is the same as the 1997 and NRPA standard. According to the 2005 standards the City as a whole has a deficit of 2 courts.
- Current 2005 Need for additional courts - 2
- **Key Issues** - Respondents to the attitude survey rated volleyball courts as number 13 in importance out of a list of 30 facilities; with the highest need expressed by respondents in areas 1 and 2.
- **Comments** - Sand Volleyball does not appear to be popular with the school district. It is a sport that is enjoyed primarily by teens and adults in a park-type setting.



### *Tennis*

- Current Number of Courts: 31 courts (city: 12 / schools: 19)
- **Target Standard: 1 court per 2,000 population**  
The 2005 standard is set at the same as the 1997 and NRPA standard. The Hurst community has a surplus of 12 courts.
- Current 2005 Need for additional courts – 0  
**Key Issues** - At a standard rate of 1 tennis court per 2,000 population, tennis appears to be relatively popular. However, with a surplus of 12 courts, the popularity may have dropped since 1997. Respondents to the attitude survey rated tennis a number 14 in importance out of a list of 30 recreational facilities if only one facility is to be provided. The response of high to very high importance mainly comes from respondents in the 36 to 55 age group, residents in area 2 in the City and females. It is possible that the general perception is that the school facilities are not readily available to the general public.
- **Comments** - The surplus courts are mainly due to the high number of courts provided at the schools. However, the City courts and the school courts serve different purposes for public programs (City) and for school programs/open play (school).





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### ***In-Line Hockey Rink***

- Current Number of Rinks: 0 rinks (city: 0 / schools: 0)
- **Target Standard: 1 rink per 30,000 population**
- The 2005 standard is set at 66% of the NRPA standard (no standard was established in 1997). The city has a deficit of 1 rink.
- Current 2005 Need for a rink – 1
- **Key Issues** - No in-line hockey facilities are currently provided at the City of Hurst. The need for this facility type is currently being met regionally by facilities in nearby communities. Respondents to the attitude survey indicated no need for this facility type.
- **Comments** - At a standard of 1 hockey rink per 30,000 population, in-line hockey is recognized as a recreational facility with a low popularity. The reason for the low demand may be the increase in popularity of ice hockey in this area. The need for this type of facility is currently being met regionally by facilities in nearby communities – Bedford has one outdoor in-line facility. Euless and North Richland Hills each have one indoor ice facility.



### ***Aquatic Centers***

- Current Number of Aquatics Centers: 2 (city: 2 / schools: 0)
- **Target Standard: 1 aquatic center per 20,000 population**
- The 2005 standard is set at the same as the NRPA standard (no standard was established in 1997). The City has no deficit.
- Current 2005 Need for additional centers – 0
- **Key Issues** – These two very popular facilities have served over 1.1 million visitors since their construction in 1996 and 1997, including over 84,000 visitors in 2004.
- **Comments** – In an open-ended question, respondents to the attitude survey identified a pool/water park/natatorium lacking in areas 1 and 2 of the City.



### ***Natatorium***

- Current Number of Natatoriums: 1 natatorium (city: 0 / college: 1)
- **Target Standard: 1 natatorium per 20,000 population**
- According to the 2005 standard, two natatoriums are needed in the city. No standard is available for 1997 and no standard is suggested by NRPA. The city has a deficit of one natatorium.
- Current 2005 Need for additional natatorium – 1
- **Key Issues** – The existing natatorium is located at the Tarrant County College-Northeast Campus (TCC-NE). This facility is available to the general public via the purchase of a "Recreation and Fitness Club Pass" (\$63 per semester). Pass holders can access these facilities during designated hours (primarily when there are no TCC classes using them).
- **Comments** – Respondents to the attitude survey rated the need for a natatorium as number 7 (64%) out of a list of 30 recreational facilities





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(highest in areas 1, 2 and 3); If only one of the 30 facilities are to be constructed, the natatorium appeared at number 1, with the highest need expressed by respondents in area 1). In an open-ended question respondents to the attitude survey identified a pool/water park/natatorium lacking in areas 1 and 2 of the City.

### ***Indoor Recreation Center***

- Current Number of Recreation Centers: 1 center
- **Target Standard: 1 recreation center per 20,000 population**
- The 2005 standard is the same as the NRPA standard which is 125% of the 1997 standard. The City has a deficit of 1 recreation center.
- Current 2005 Need for additional recreation center – 1
- **Key Issues** – Respondents to the attitude survey rated a recreation center to be a relatively high likelihood of utilization.
- **Comments** - Respondents to the attitude survey rated the need for a recreation center as number 8 (64%) out of a list of 30 recreational facilities (highest in area 4); If only one of the 30 facilities are to be constructed, the recreation center appeared at number 3, with the highest need expressed by respondents in area 4.

### ***Paved Trails***

- Current Miles of Paved Trails: 5.75 miles (city: 4.75 / college: 1)
- **Target Standard: 1 mile per 2,000 population**
- The 2005 standard is set at 200% the 1997 standard. No NRPA standard exists. The City has a deficit of 13.25 miles of paved trails.
- Current 2005 Need for additional paved trails – 13.25 miles
- **Key Issues** - Respondents to the attitude survey rated jogging/biking trails consistently as one of the most important recreational facilities to be constructed, emphasized by their passionate response and singled out from a list of 30 options. In addition, the respondents rated multi-use trails as sorely lacking in the city.
- **Comments** - There is currently a nationwide increase in the popularity of trails that can be enjoyed by all age groups. Accessibility, security, and visual interest along the way are a few of the important considerations when developing trails.



### ***Dog Park***

- Current Number of Dog Parks: 0
- **Target Standard: 1 dog park per 30,000 population**
- According to the 2005 standard, one dog park is required. No standard with which to compare the 2005 standard exists.
- Current 2005 Need for a dog park – 1
- **Key issues** - Respondents to the attitude survey rated the need for a dog park as number 14 (53%) out of a list of 30 recreational facilities (highest in area 2); If only one of the 30 facilities are to be







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constructed, the dog park appeared at number 5, with the highest need expressed by respondents in area 4).

- **Comments** - The purpose of dog parks is mainly twofold: running opportunities and dog socializing (even owner socializing). A third purpose is more applicable in dense multi-family apartment housing where a dog park is the only opportunity for the animals to have access to an exterior landscaped environment. Although this is less applicable in Hurst, the City's adopted plan for multi-use developments may emphasize the latter. Depending on what is allowed or not, dog parks need to be of a certain size to absorb animal waste not picked up by owners. If waste is to be picked up, policing becomes an important factor. The typical issues about dog parks include the "not in my backyard" factor, as a result of potential noise, odor and traffic, including the need for parking.

### **Skate Park**

- Current Number of Skate Parks: 0
- **Target Standard: 1 skate park per 30,000 population**
- The 2005 standard is set at 133% the 1997 standard. No NRPA standard exists. The city has a deficit of one skate park.
- Current 2005 Need for a skate park – 1
- **Key Issues** - No skate park facilities are currently provided at the City of Hurst. Respondents to the attitude survey rated skate parks number 15 (53%) in importance from a list of 30 recreational facilities, with the highest need expressed in area 2. It also features number 7 if only one facility was to be constructed from the list of 30 facilities; the highest need was expressed in areas 2 and 3. In an open question a skate park was mentioned as a facility lacking in the City.
- **Comments** – Skate parks are most successful in highly visible and heavily frequented venues, with adequate full time supervision. The typical issues about skate parks include the "not in my backyard" factor, which is as a result of potential noise, traffic, and the adult supervision issues.



### **BMX Park**

- Current Number of BMX Parks: 0
- **Target Standard: 1 BMX Park per 40,000 population**  
According to the 2005 standard, no BMX park is required until the city population reaches 40,000. No standard with which to compare the 2005 standard exists.
- Current 2005 Need for a BMX Park - 0
- **Key Issues** – Respondents to the attitude survey rated this facility as one of the least important facilities to be constructed from a list of 30 recreational facilities as well as the least likely to be used.
- **Comments** – In the past, little or no public inquiry has been received regarding this type of facility.







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### ***Playground Units***

- Current Number of Playground Units: 30 (city: 15 / schools: 16)
- **Target Standard: 1 Playground Unit per 1,000 population**  
The 2005 standard reverts back to the NRPA standard after being decreased by the 1997 standards to 29% of the NRPA standards. The City has a deficit of 7 playgrounds.
- Current 2005 Need for additional playground units – 6
- **Key Issues** – Respondents to the attitude survey rated playgrounds as number 5 (71%) in importance for the need to construct additional facilities and rated number 6 if only one facility from the list of 30 was to be constructed.
- **Comments** – The need for playgrounds is evident when studying two demographic groups: 36% of the respondents are people with children under age 12; 41% of the respondents are adults 55 years and older (people most likely to have grand children.)



### ***Park Pavilions / Group Shelters***

- Current Number of Pavilions and Group Shelters: 24 (city: 23 / schools: 1)
- **Target Standard: 1 pavilion / shelter per 2,000 population**  
The 2005 standard is set at the same as the 1997 and NRPA standard. The City has a surplus of 5 pavilion/group shelters.
- Current 2005 Need for additional pavilions – 0
- **Key Issues** – Respondents to the attitude survey rated pavilions as number 6 in importance for the need for additional facilities and rated number 12 if only one facility from the list of 30 was to be constructed.
- **Comments** – The attitude survey typically results in the expression of desire rather than need. If a facility is enjoyed a great deal, the impulse may be to ask for more even though the current number may be adequate.



**Table 6.9**  
***Alphabetic Summary of Key Facility Needs per Facility Standards***

**Dog Park** (100% deficit) – One dog park is needed to meet the target goal.

**In-Line Hockey** (100% deficit) – The City of Hurst has at present no in-line hockey rink available. One rink is needed to meet the target goal.

**Natatorium** (50% deficit) – One natatorium is currently available at the Tarrant County Community College.

**Paved Trails** (70% deficit) – Hurst has a significant need for the development of hike, bike and nature trails. This is confirmed by the citizen's survey that consistently rated trails as one of the most important recreation facility. A minimum of 6.75 miles is needed to meet the target goal.

**Playgrounds** (16% deficit) – The need for playgrounds rated relatively high on the attitude survey. It should be noted that 36% of respondents in Hurst have children 12 years of age and younger. Seven playgrounds are needed to meet the target goal.

**Recreation Center** (50% deficit) – Per the target standard, the city requires an additional recreation center.

**Sand Volleyball Courts** (29% deficit) – Four and one volleyball courts are respectively available in the city and at a school. Per the target standard, the City requires two additional volleyball courts.

**Skate Park** (100% deficit) – One skate park is needed to meet the target goal.

Demand was also used to determine what additional facilities are needed in Hurst. Demand is based both on actual participation in organized activities as well as by the level of use and preferences expressed by citizens through the citizen attitude survey.

### **6.9** ***Demand Based Needs***

***Demand based on actual participation in organized activities*** – The following provides information on the various Hurst sponsored as well as co-sponsored programs provided in the City of Hurst:

#### Types of sport activities practiced in Hurst

##### *Sponsored Programs:*

- Adult Slow Pitch Softball
- Tennis lessons, leagues, camps, clinics, and court rentals



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- Adult Basketball
- Swim lessons
- Youth Gymnastics

### *Co-Sponsored Programs:*

- Girls Fast Pitch Softball
- Youth Soccer
- Boys Baseball
- YMCA Youth Baseball
- Girls Kickball (currently inactive)

### Names of all League and Sport Associations

#### *Sponsored Programs:*

- City of Hurst Adult Softball Program
- City of Hurst Tennis Program
- City of Hurst Adult Basketball Program
- City of Hurst Learn-To-Swim Program
- City of Hurst Youth Gymnastics Program

#### *Co-Sponsored Programs:*

- Hurst Girls Softball League (HGSL)
- Hurst United Soccer Association (HUSA)
- Tri-Cities Baseball Association (TCBA)
- Airport Area Family YMCA
- Hurst Little Miss Kickball (currently inactive)
- Mid-Cities Senior Softball Program

### Participation information for all organized sports in Hurst

#### *Sponsored Programs:*

- City of Hurst Adult Softball Program:  
Approximately 150 teams/season x 3 seasons/year (spring, summer, fall); each team consists of an average of 14 players (total of 6,300 participants.)
- City of Hurst Tennis Program:  
Over 14,000 participants (annual) in the various programs offered at the Hurst Tennis Center.
- City of Hurst Adult Basketball Program:  
Approximately 6 teams/season x 3 seasons/year (fall, winter, spring); each team consists of an average of 10 players (total of 180 participants).
- City of Hurst Learn-To-Swim:  
Approximately 1,800 participants per summer.
- City of Hurst Youth Gymnastics Program:  
In Fiscal Year 04-05, over 4,700 participants were recorded in the classroom portion of the Gymnastics Program, and 15 participants in the competitive team portion of the program.



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### *Co-Sponsored Programs:*

- Hurst Girls Softball League (HGSL)  
Approximately 150 players (spring season) & 100 players (fall season)
- Hurst United Soccer Association (HUSA)  
Approximately 1,000 players (spring season) & 950 players (fall season)
- Tri-Cities Baseball Association (TCBA)  
Approximately 500 players (spring season) & 350 players (fall season)
- Airport Area Family YMCA  
Approximately 150 players (summer season)
- Hurst Little Miss Kickball (currently inactive)  
Approximately 60 players (spring season)
- Mid-Cities Senior Softball Program  
Approximately 20 players; Team uses the Hurst Athletic Complex as their "home field".

### Interaction with neighboring cities

#### *Tri-Cities Baseball Association (TCBA)*

Provides baseball opportunities primarily for Hurst and Bedford children. Both cities provide playing fields for this group. In Hurst, these facilities are the Hurst Community Park ball fields and the Smith-Barfield Park ball field.

#### *Hurst Girls Softball League (HGSL)*

Provides softball opportunities primarily for Hurst and Bedford children. Only Hurst provides playing fields for this group, at the Chisholm Park ball fields.

#### *Hurst-Bedford Senior Citizens Center*

Provides activities, programs, and services for Hurst and Bedford seniors. The Center is operated by Bedford, but is funded by Hurst and Bedford. This facility is located in Bedford within the Bedford Boys Ranch Park.

In late 2005, the construction of a Hurst Senior Activities Center was approved during a bond election. No specific site has been identified. A possible site is the undeveloped Mayfair Park for the following reasons: It is centrally located within the City of Hurst and it is adjacent to a church facility, with whom parking areas could be shared. However, it is of extreme importance that the integrity of Mayfair Park is not compromised by the future Center. Its design should recognize the need to establish the development sensitively within the park setting. This requires a limited building footprint with ample public space for use in a park setting. A program that will assist in achieving a development that is sustainable and well integrated with the environment is LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) which is administered by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) (for more information visit [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org)).



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### *TXU Games of Texas-Northeast Tarrant County (GOT-NET)*

The six-city coalition of Hurst, Bedford, Colleyville, Euless, Grapevine, and North Richland Hills collaborated to host the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation's (TAAF) TXU Games of Texas in 2003 and 2004. The Games of Texas is the largest multi-sport athletic event in the state. The Parks and Recreation staffs of these six cities worked together beginning in early 1999 to plan and coordinate the Games. In 2004, 21 sports took place at 32 different venues in these six cities. Hurst hosted Gymnastics (Recreation Center), Tennis (Tennis Center), Baseball (Community Park), and Soccer (Community Park). It is estimated that up to 12,000 athletes and up to 35,000 spectators attended the 2004 Games, which brought an estimated total economic impact of up to \$7 million to the Northeast Tarrant County area.

### *Cottonbelt Trail Project*

The Cottonbelt Trail project is a collaborative effort between the Cities of Hurst and Colleyville along the Cottonbelt Railway line. The section of trail within Hurst stretches over a distance of one mile. Once completed, the Cottonbelt Trail will continuously connect North Richland Hills, Hurst, and Colleyville.

### *Little Bear Creek Trail*

Future plans for the Little Bear Creek Trail is to connect with the Colleyville Nature Center in the City of Colleyville.

***Demand according to Citizen expressed need*** - Respondents to the citizen survey were asked to indicate their favorite recreation activities, as well as which facilities they thought were most needed in the city. A summary of citizen input is provided in Chapter 5, Citizen Input, and is also contained in the Appendices. According to the citizens, the most highly needed facilities are noted in the following table:



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**Table 6.10**  
***Citizen Attitude Survey Response by Rank for importance of adding additional recreation facilities (50% and higher)***

- 1 PARK RESTROOMS** - 81% regard additional park restrooms as important to very important throughout the City; drops to number 4 if only one facility was to be constructed.
- 2 JOGGING / BIKING TRAILS** – 78% regard additional jogging / biking trails as important to very important (highest in areas 1, 2 & 4); stays at number 2 if only one facility was to be constructed.
- 3 PICNIC TABLES** - 73% regard additional picnic tables as important to very important (highest in areas 1 & 2); drops to number 24 if only one facility was to be constructed.
- 4 NATURAL HABITAT / NATURE AREAS** – 71% regard additional natural habitat / nature areas as important to very important throughout the city; drops to number 8 if only one facility was to be constructed.
- 5 PLAYGROUNDS** - 71% regard additional playgrounds as important to very important (highest in areas 1, 2 & 4); drops to number 6 if only one facility was to be constructed.
- 6 RENTAL PICNIC /REUNION PAVILIONS** - 65% regard additional rental picnic / reunion pavilions as important to very important (highest in areas 1 & 2); drops to number 12 if only one facility was to be constructed.
- 7 NATATORIUM** - 63% regard a natatorium as important to very important (highest in areas 1, 2 & 4); jumps to number 1 if only one facility was to be constructed.
- 8 RECREATION CENTER** - 64% regard an additional recreation center as important to very important (highest in area 4); jumps to number 3 if only one facility was to be constructed.
- 9 EXERCISE STATIONS ALONG TRAILS** - 61% regard additional exercise stations along trails as important to very important (highest in area 2); drops to number 26 if only one facility was to be constructed.
- 10 AMPHITHEATER** - 61% regard an amphitheater as important to very important (highest in area 2); stays at number 10 if only one facility was to be constructed.
- 11 VOLLEYBALL COURTS** - 59% regard additional volleyball courts as important to very important (highest in areas 1 & 2); drops to number 29 if only one facility was to be constructed.
- 12 BASKETBALL COURTS** - (59% regard additional basketball courts as important to very important (highest in areas 1, 2 & 4); drops to number 13 if only one facility was to be constructed.
- 13 GYMNASIUM** - 59% regard a gymnasium as important to very important (highest in areas 1 & 2); drops to number 17 if only one facility was to be constructed.
- 14 SKATE BOARD PARK** - 53% regard skate parks as important to very important (highest in area 2); jumps to number 7 if only one facility was to be constructed.
- 15 DOG PARK** - 53% regard dog parks as important to very important (highest in area 2); jumps to number 5 if only one facility was to be constructed.
- 16 YOUTH SOFTBALL FIELD** - 52% regard youth softball fields as important to very important (highest in areas 1, 2 & 4); drops to number 18 if only one facility was to be constructed.
- 17 SOCCER FIELD** - 50% regard soccer fields as important to very important (highest in areas 1, 2 & 4); jumps to number 11 if only one facility was to be constructed
- 18 RACQUETBALL/HANDBALL COURTS** - 50% regard racquetball/handball courts as important to very important (similar throughout the City); drops to number 23 if only one facility was to be constructed.





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Table 6.10 depicts fifteen outdoor facilities and three indoor facilities: Recreation Center, Natatorium and Gymnasium. It is noticeable that unorganized activities like jogging, biking, children play and visitation of natural areas rated generally higher in need than organized activities like volleyball, basketball and softball.

With reference to Table 6.9 that is an alphabetic summary of Key Facility Needs per Facility Standards, respondents to the attitude survey ranked an In-line Hockey Rink at 47% in importance (number 20) from a list of 30 recreation facilities. Of the facilities mentioned in Table 6.9, in-line hockey, is the only one that does not feature in Table 6.10.

Table 6.11 presents the average between the respondents' ranking of the importance to construct 30 additional recreational facilities and if the choice was to construct only one of the 30 facilities.

**Table 6.11**  
***Citizen Attitude Survey Response ranked for the importance of constructing additional recreational facilities out of a list of 29 facilities and averaging the ranking if only one facility was to be constructed (top 10 only)***

1. JOGGING / BIKING TRAILS (14%)
2. NATATORIUM (14%)
3. RECREATION CENTER (9%)
4. PARK RESTROOMS (7%)
5. PLAYGROUNDS (6%)
6. DOG PARK (6%)
7. SKATE BOARD PARK (5%)
8. NATURAL HABITAT / NATURE AREAS (4%)
9. AMPHITHEATER (4%)
10. BASKETBALL COURTS (4%)



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### **6.10 Resource Based Assessment**

The City of Hurst has three features that should be preserved and/or adapted for recreational use and open space preservation where feasible. These are the major creeks and drainage channels in the City, the TXU utility easements and the Cottonbelt railway line.

**The Creek and Drainage System** – The creek and drainage system of the City of Hurst is unique in that all run generally in a north/south direction. This pattern is opposite the major thoroughfares that run generally east/west through the City.

The nature of creek and drainage systems is that they are linear and thus ideal corridors for activities like hiking, jogging and biking. Lorean Branch is the longest such corridor and stretches for a distance of more than 4.5 miles from Mid-Cities Boulevard in the north to the City of Fort Worth boundary in the south. The second longest creek/drainage way runs for about 3 miles through Hurst. Shorter stretches of creek/drainage amount to about 7 miles. The total distance of creek/drainage corridors in the City of Hurst exceeds 14 miles. At an average width of 25 feet, 14 miles of trail corridor translate into 42 acres.

The City should make serious effort to secure functional corridors along these creeks and drainage systems. Where not channelized the key criteria should be:

- Where possible acquire development rights to the 100-year floodplain to prevent unrestricted encroachment on the creek and destruction of the forested areas along the creek. Acquisition of land may include purchase of property, donation as undevelopable or the purchase of development rights. The implication is that the City becomes the custodians of the land by holding the development rights in perpetuity with an agreement that it will never be developed. The model of the Texas Nature Conservancy may be followed in acquiring these development rights.
- Acquire and preserve, where possible, secondary tributary streams or swales that can create linkage “fingers” to adjacent neighborhoods.
- Work with land and homeowners to create linear vehicular and pedestrian parkways along the edges of the floodplain, rather than backing lots up to the wooded areas. Such single loaded parkways open the creek area up for the benefit of and enjoyment by all, and not just a few residents. In many cases this can be retrofitted to existing conditions e.g. along Little Bear Creek.
- Create linear trail segments in phases. Identify key trail linkages to develop first. With proper city support, funding and marketing, these trails will become the impetus for the development of similar trail connections.



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- Another possible approach is to acquire land that is regularly subjected to flooding, remove all improvements and restore the flood area to a healthy and functional ecosystem. This means “returning the floodplain to the creek” with the benefit of flood control AND recreation access.



*Located across from Mayfair Park along Yates Road, this small drainage channel is large enough and ideal for trail development.*



*This section of Lorean Branch north of Harwood Drive is ideal for a trail connection toward the Hurst Athletic Complex.*

For channelized drainage ways the following may be considered:

- Even though the existing right of way along canalized drainage ways is constricted, it is possible in certain situations to implement trail linkages at the edge of the channels.





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- A very innovative solution to retrofit existing channels for the use of public access was achieved along the Lorean Branch in Central Park. In addition to a low water crossing, one side of the channel was lowered and made accessible for pedestrian access.



*A functional and aesthetically pleasing low water crossing over the concrete lined Lorean Branch in Central Park.*



*The trail section added to the side of the concrete lined drainage way is extremely successful; it serves as a model for similar applications in the retrofitting of other concrete lined channels in the City.*

- An unusual but in some instances plausible solution may be to restore some sections of the channelized creeks by removing the concrete



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altogether to be replaced by “soft”, ecologically-friendly, and bioengineered armoring and treatment. This will allow for the reintroduction of beneficial plant and animal life. However, it is essential to include hydrologists and hydraulic engineers in the study of such an option.

- Where possible streams that have been piped should be “day-lighted” in order to re-introduce a healthy ecosystem. The City should also make a concerted effort to prevent piping of any existing open streams.

Developing creeks and drainage corridors will assist in answering the need for linear parks in the City. This will also provide the opportunity for the development of hike and bike trails which rated consistently as one of the most important recreational facilities needed in the city. In addition, the respondents indicated strong and enthusiastic support for trails as part of capital improvement in the City.

**TXU Utility Rights-of-Way** – The linear nature of the TXU utility rights-of-way make them ideal as hike and bike trails. Three TXU utility lines run through the City of Hurst:

- The north TXU utility line runs from the Cottonbelt railway line in the west to Harwood Road at a distance of 2.27 miles. It provides the opportunity for a connection with the future Cottonbelt trail, through Chisholm Park towards the intersection of the middle utility line.



*Trail development along this section of the north TXU utility line will provide the impetus to remove the fence and allow for unimpeded access from the community along Chantilly Road onto the trail.*





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- The middle TXU utility line runs for a distance of 1.53 miles from Highway 26 north of Tarrant County College Northeast Campus to Harwood Road where it intersects with the north TXU utility line.



*The middle TXU utility line as seen from Highway 26.*



*Another view of the middle TXU utility line.*





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- The south TXU utility line runs north of Highway 10 from Rickel Park in the east to Billy Creek Park in the west for a distance of 2.84 miles.



*View of the south TXU utility line as seen from Bellaire Drive looking east.*

The TXU utility rights-of-way in Hurst total 6.64 miles. The average width of these right-of-ways is 100 feet. Once the trails are developed it is feasible to account a 25 feet wide corridor to parkland, which equates to 20 acres. Developing the TXU utility rights-of-way will assist in answering the need for linear parks and trails in the City of Hurst.



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*The middle TXU utility line as seen from Cavender Road looking eastward (see proposed development as per image below).*



*Rendering of the TXU utility line along Cavender Road (see before image above) after trail and trail head development.*





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**Cottonbelt Railway Line** – The potential for utilizing a 25 foot wide section of the Cottonbelt rail corridor as a trail was identified jointly by the Cities of Hurst and Colleyville. The stretch of rail corridor through Hurst totals 1 mile. The trail is to be constructed along the DART owned railroad right-of-way and in easements adjacent to the TXU right-of-way.

The design of the Cottonbelt trail is currently nearing completion. If not addressed in this phase of implementation, it is important that the City gives special attention to trail features like rest stops, overlooks, benches and light fixtures along the trail. These, together with trail gateway features, will assist in emphasizing the section of Cottonbelt Trail that runs through Hurst. However, collaboration with existing and future participating cities including North Richland Hills is essential to ensure continuity of features along the entire length of the trail.

One of the existing features of the trail in Hurst is the very impressive railway bridge that spans the Little Bear Creek and is visible from various vantage points. It is indeed a major destination and point of interest along the entire Cottonbelt Trail.



*The impressive railroad bridge across Little Bear Creek.*



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The key findings of the standards based assessment, the demand based assessment, and the resource-based assessment were combined to create the following summary of key recreational needs in Hurst for 2005. The findings are divided into land and park type needs, recreation facilities and other special needs or opportunities driven by specific resources.

### **6.11 Summary of Key Recreation Needs in Hurst**

#### **Neighborhood Parks**

Assuming that all land currently dedicated to neighborhood parks are developed, Hurst still lacks acreage in meeting the standard. A number of opportunities exist to increase the acreage of neighborhood parks:

#### **Land and Park Type Needs**

- Acquisition of land, which forms part of a 33 acres vacant site along Precinct Line Road and bisected by the Little Bear Creek tributary in the most northern part of the City. It is recommended that about 8 acres be dedicated to a neighborhood park.
- Enlargement of Hurst Hills Park towards the Walker Branch Creek and extended north along the creek which can add up to 20 acres to the park.



*Walker Branch with Hurst Hills Park to the right; the creek corridor provides the opportunity for a trail link and the proposed park extension to the north include the dense stand of trees.*

- Enlargement of Highway 10 Neighborhood Park in a southern direction, which can add up to 16.75 acres to the park.
- The parcels of land to the north of the Hurst Athletic Complex total more than 13 acres and are ideally suited to be incorporated into a neighborhood park. It will also give better purpose to the northeast section of the Athletic Complex, which at present is tucked away with no direct or easy access. It is recommended that about 7 acres be acquired for the park, including a wide boulevard access from Highway 26.



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### Community Park Needs

The supply of community parks acreage is adequate and meets the standard. However the parcel of vacant land to the north of Hurst Athletic Complex has the potential to serve as a neighborhood park as described above.

### Special Purpose Park Needs

The City contains a number of small parcels of vacant land. Some of these parcels may be appropriate for singular or combined indoor recreational facilities e.g. gymnasium, natatorium etc.

Other special needs that will be served by a Special Purpose Park include:

- Land to the immediate east and west of Parker Cemetery in order to maintain the tranquil tree covered character of the site. This will conserve the natural gateway to the city along Highway 10 from the west as created by these parcels of tree-covered land, which are located on a higher elevation. It is important though that the land all the way down to Highway 10 be preserved.
- The future widening of Highway 183 will require a wide landscaped and tree filled buffer so as to maintain and secure the residential character of the City of Hurst (see also Chapter 7: Streetscape and Gateways.)
- A future dog park can possibly be provided on the currently vacant land along Highway 10.
- Vacant land along Highway 26 is well suited for a dramatic entry sign as the City is approached from Colleyville. Acquiring land for purposes of signage and local use, will answer this specific need.



*Vacant land suitable for a dramatic Hurst entry sign.*

### Regional Park Needs

Hurst has no regional parks and no target standard is set for future regional parks. However, the opportunity exists to acquire land as part of a 33 acres vacant parcel in the most northern part of the City to develop into a regional recreation center.





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### Linear Park Needs

Land along creeks and drainage ways (14 miles), along the TXU utility rights-of-way (6.64 miles) and along the Cottonbelt DART line (1 mile) is well suited for linear parks. In addition, the linear park system can be improved by adding parcels of vacant land associated with the TXU utility line and the drainage ways. Such land will provide “rooms” and “spatial relief” along the lengthy corridors where amenities may include exercise stations (relatively high demand in the attitude survey), and stands of native plantings including wildflowers and grasses. Various parcels include:

#### South TXU utility line:

- Land to the south of Billy Creek Estates Park will add 7.8 acres.
- Land immediately east of this parcel connecting directly with the TXU utility line will add 17.6 acres.
- A parcel of 23 acres is located where the TXU utility line intersects with Lorean Branch.
- Small parcels will add a total of about 5 acres at Norwood Drive.
- A parcel of land adjacent to Highway 10 Linear Park.

#### Middle TXU utility line:

- Land where Lorean Branch intersects with the TXU utility line.

#### North TXU utility line:

- A parcel of vacant land just north of Chisholm Park.



*This parcel of land north of Chisholm Park has a sense of intimacy, yet it provides welcome relief to the corridor feel of the TXU utility line.*

#### Drainage ways:

The majority of vacant land mentioned under the Neighborhood Parks section above as well as vacant land associated with the TXU utility line, is associated with creeks and drainage ways including:





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- Land to the south of Billy Creek Estates Park associated with the TXU utility line.
- Vacant land where the TXU utility line intersects with Walker Branch.
- Vacant land where the TXU utility line intersects with Lorean Branch along Highway 10.
- Vacant land along Walker Branch adjacent to Hurst Hills Park.
- Vacant land along the TXU utility line where it intersects with Lorean Branch.



*Lorean Branch and the south TXU utility line as seen from HWY 10.*

Other vacant land associated with creeks and drainage ways include:

- Parcels of land south of Bellaire Park.
- Small parcels of land north and south of Redbud Road along Valley View Branch.
- A small one acre parcel of land south of Pipeline Road along Valley View Branch. This provides the opportunity to provide a small pocket park as part of the future Multi-use Development along Pipeline Road.
- Part of the 33 acres vacant land along the Little Bear Creek tributary in the most northern part of the City.

### **Open Space Land Needs**

Natural habitat and nature areas rank relatively high in importance for the residents in the citizen attitude survey. The City of Hurst currently has no land allocated for open space needs. Opportunities for Open Space Land dedication are:

- Little Bear Creek valley and tributary, which totals a distance of 1.6 miles.
- A wide landscaped and tree filled buffer along Highway 183 so as to maintain and secure the residential character of the City of Hurst (see Special Purpose Park Needs above).
- Land associated with Parker Cemetery as described under Special Purpose Park Needs above.



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The following is the priority for the key facility needs in Hurst, based on facility standards and citizen input.

### **Summary of Key Facility Needs**

**Jogging, Hike and Bike Trails** - Respondents to the attitude survey consistently rated trails as the highest priority facility desired and needed. The City has only 30% of the minimum desired. In fact 13.25 miles of trails are needed to meet minimum goals. There exists great opportunity to link Hurst's trail system with trails in Colleyville, North Richland Hills etc., thus making it regionally relevant and desirable. Potential opportunities for trails include 14 miles of creeks and drainage ways, 6.5 miles of TXU utility line, 1 mile of Cottonbelt railroad corridor and an as yet undefined length of enhanced sidewalks (8 feet wide) to be made part of a city wide trail network.

**Recreation Center** – The development of the indoor recreation center lends itself to the opportunity to provide sport facilities that are typically needed indoors, e.g. natatorium and gymnasium both of which feature on this list of key facility needs.

**Natatorium** – Although the respondents to the attitude survey rated a natatorium one level higher than a new recreation center, it is placed second to the latter for the same reason as explained above.

**Park Restrooms** – A need expressed throughout the City, respondents rated restrooms first and fourth in two separate questions. The condition of park restrooms in several parks is in need of improvement, particularly in some neighborhood parks e.g. Smith Barfield Park. In fact, it is possible that it is people's negative reaction to the existing condition of park restrooms that influenced them to respond with a strong need for new restroom facilities. A relatively successful attempt was made to limit destruction of such facilities by the use of portable restrooms semi-screened with a woven material, e.g. Hurst Community Park. However, a more permanent solution should be sought.



*Park restroom facility in Waxahachie, Texas.*



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Factors that typically limit destruction and vandalism of restrooms include open access, selected visibility to the inside and outside and regular maintenance. The picture on the previous page is an example of such a restroom structure in Waxahachie, Texas located in a community park.

The opening between the wall and roof of the structure allows for ventilation as well as a sense of openness that discourages vandalism. The seating area adds more people presence, which in turn provides additional informal surveillance of the restroom structure.



*The shaded seating area adds to the visibility of the restroom facility.*

**Nature Areas / Natural Habitat** – The attitude survey revealed a strong need for natural habitat and natural areas. Acquiring land to manage as nature area and natural habitat has the benefit that such land can very effectively be used for other purposes as well including trails and picnic facilities. Although rated second to playgrounds, the mere scarcity and lack of natural areas in the City demand a higher priority for this important feature and amenity.

**Playgrounds** – The City has a fairly good supply of playgrounds. However, these facilities remain a key part of the recreation picture and should be included in all new parks. The need for playgrounds rated relatively high on the attitude survey.

**Dog Parks** – Dog parks are new to many communities, yet a facility desired by many dog owners. If well managed and well controlled, dog parks can be an important amenity for the citizens.

**Skate Parks** – Skate parks are only successful when located in high use areas with high visibility and good supervision. Good locations include a recreation center, community park and/or aquatics center. Predetermined operating times with adequate supervision is further essential to ensure the successful use of a skate park.



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**Amphitheater** – Open-air entertainment has always been popular with communities. If combined with a city hall / plaza gathering space it can very effectively be combined with city sponsored celebrations and festivities.

**Basketball Courts** – Basketball courts are almost anywhere successful in both neighborhood and community parks. One may only observe the typical American home with a basket in the driveway to understand its versatility in location.

*Key facility needs in Hurst include:*

- 1 Jogging, hike and bike trails
- 2 Recreation Center
- 3 Natatorium
- 4 Park restrooms
- 5 Natural habitat/areas
- 6 Playgrounds
- 7 Dog parks
- 8 Skate park
- 9 Amphitheater
- 10 Basketball courts